

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A pasting and bookbinding apparatus, comprising:
 - [[a]] a sheet bundle loading device for positioning sheets ejected from an image forming apparatus and stacking the positioned sheets thereon;
 - [[b]] a holding device for holding a sheet bundle stacked on the sheet bundle of sheets loading device and transporting the sheet bundle;
 - [[c]] a sheet bundle transporting device for receiving the sheet bundle transported by the holding device and interposing the sheet bundle to ~~[[erect]]~~ an upright position;
 - [[d]] a paste coating device for coating paste on a back portion of the sheet bundle interposed and ~~erected~~ positioned upright by the sheet bundle transporting device;
 - [[e]] a cover supplying device for supplying a cover sheet;
 - [[f]] a cover pasting device for pressing and pasting the cover sheet supplied from the cover supplying device against ~~[[a]]~~ the paste-coated back portion of the sheet bundle; ~~to paste; and~~
 - [[g]] a cover folding device for folding the cover sheet pasted on ~~[[a]]~~ the sheet bundle by the cover pasting device along an edge portion of ~~[[a]]~~ the paste-coated surface of the sheet bundle~~[[,]]~~;

a front door for opening and closing a front side of a main body of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus, wherein respective front sides of the sheet bundle loading device, the sheet bundle transporting device, the paste coating device, the cover supplying device, the cover pasting device, the cover folding device, each of which are arranged in a longitudinal line in a vertical direction, can be opened or closed; and an elevating device for moving the cover pasting device and the cover folding device in the vertical direction.

~~wherein elements (a) to (g) are arranged in a longitudinal line in a vertical direction inside a main body of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus.~~

2. (Currently amended) The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a sheet ejection device arranged in an upper portion of ~~[[a]]~~ the main body of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus~~[[,]]~~ for directly ejecting a sheet which does not need to be subjected to pasting and bookbinding processing.

3. (Currently amended) The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 1, ~~further comprising an~~ wherein the elevating device ~~provided~~ is arranged in a lower portion of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus, ~~for moving the cover pasting device and the cover folding device in a vertical direction.~~

4. (Currently amended) The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:

a transporting device ~~that is composed of~~ including a sheet transport path through which ~~[[a]]~~ the sheet ejected from the image forming apparatus is transported and ~~[[is]]~~ fed into the sheet bundle loading device, a cover transport path through which ~~a sheet for a cover~~ the cover sheet supplied from the cover supplying device is transported to the cover pasting device, and a sheet ejection path through which ~~[[a]]~~ the sheet is transported to the sheet ejection device.

5. (Currently Amended) The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 1, ~~wherein formation of a sheet bundle by sticking between sheets with paste and bookbinding by wrapping with a cover by which a booklet is made by sticking a cover composed of a front cover and a back cover to a sheet bundle with paste, carried out at a same location~~ wherein formation of the sheet bundle by the paste coating device and bookbinding are carried out at a same location, the sheet bundle is formed by coating paste between the sheets, and a book is bound by wrapping the sheet bundle with the cover sheet and adhering the cover sheet to the sheet bundle using paste to form a booklet, the cover sheet including a front cover and a back cover.

6. (Currently Amended) The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 1, ~~wherein a booklet formed by the cover folding device is bookbinding by wrapping the sheet bundle with a front cover surface, a back cover surface and a back of the sheet bundle in which the paste applied portion back of the sheet bundle is pasted~~

wherein the cover folding device forms a booklet by binding a book, the book is bound by wrapping the sheet bundle with the cover sheet and adhering a back portion of the cover sheet to the back portion of the sheet bundle to which paste has been applied, the cover sheet including a front cover surface and a back cover surface.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) An image forming system₁ comprising:

[[[a)]] an image forming apparatus main body including an image writing means, an image forming means₁ and a sheet transporting means; and

[[[b)]] the pasting and bookbinding apparatus ~~described in the~~ of claim 1.

9. (Currently Amended) A pasting and bookbinding apparatus₁ comprising:

[[[a)]] a sheet bundle loading device for stacking a plurality of sheets ejected from an image forming apparatus;

[[[b)]] a sheet bundle transporting device having a holding device for transporting a sheet bundle ~~composed of plural~~ including the plurality of sheets stacked on the sheet bundle loading device and holding the sheet bundle ~~to be erected~~ at a prescribed position; [[and]]

[[[c)]] a paste coating device having a movable paste coating member for coating paste on end surfaces of superposed sheet bundles held at the prescribed position[[.]]; and

a front door for opening and closing a front side of a main body of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus, wherein respective front sides of the sheet bundle loading device, the sheet bundle transporting device, and the paste coating device can be opened or closed,

wherein the paste coating member stands by at an initial position outside an area of the sheet bundle for a maximum-sized sheet, and moves along the end surfaces of the superposed sheet bundle held in ~~the erected state~~ an upright position to coat paste ~~when a~~ during a paste coating processing ~~is carried out~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A pasting and bookbinding apparatus, comprising:

[[a)] a sheet bundle loading device ~~on which~~ for stacking a plurality of sheets ejected from an image forming apparatus ~~are stacked~~ thereon;

[[b)] a sheet bundle transporting device having a holding device for transporting a sheet bundle ~~composed of plural~~ including the plurality of sheets stacked on the sheet bundle loading device and holding the sheet bundle ~~to be erected~~ at a prescribed position;

[[c)] a paste coating device ~~[[that]]~~ which stands by at an initial position outside an area of the sheet bundle in a lateral direction ~~in a direction~~ of end surfaces of a superposed maximum-sized sheet bundle, and moves along end faces of the superposed sheet bundle held in ~~the erected state, when~~ an upright position during a paste coating processing ~~is carried out~~;

[[d]] a cover supplying device ~~that contains~~ including cover sheets which ~~touch~~ contact the end surface and ~~the~~ a back portion of the sheet bundle and supplies;

[[e]] a cover pasting device for bringing ~~the~~ the cover sheet ~~to be~~ in pressure contact with the end surfaces of the superposed sheet bundle ~~which has been subjected to paste coating processing~~ to paste the cover sheet; ~~and~~

[[f]] a cover folding device for folding ~~the~~ the cover sheet pasted on the sheet bundle by the cover pasting device along the end faces of the superposed sheet bundle; and

a front door for opening and closing a front side of a main body of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus, wherein respective front sides of the sheet bundle loading device, the sheet bundle transporting device, the paste coating device, the cover supplying device, the cover pasting device, and the cover folding device can be opened or closed.

11. (Currently Amended) The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 10, wherein a booklet formed by the cover folding device is ~~bookbinding~~ bound by wrapping the sheet bundle with a front cover surface, a back cover surface, and the end ~~faces~~ surfaces of the superposed sheet bundle.